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To:	FACSIMILE NO.:	TELEPHONE NO.:
Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Arlington, VA 22313-1450	(571) 273-7424	() -
ATTENTION:	Examiner: Colin Larose	
	Art Unit: 2624	

FROM:		TELEPHONE NO.:
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RE:	Serial No.: 10/525,812	
	Attorney Docket No.: DE02 0197 US	

TRANSMISSION INCLUDES:

5 Pages (including cover sheet)

Amendment - 4 pages

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8		
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office at the number listed above		
on 11/13/08	2008	by <u>Vilimajha Naga</u>



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Steffen Scholze	CONFIRMATION NO.	1159
		DOCKET NO.: NXP ID	81136995
		Formerly	DE02 0197 US
SERIAL NO.:	10/525,812	EXAMINER:	Colin M Larose
FILED:	February 25, 2005	ART UNIT:	2624
FOR:	METHOD AND APPARATUS OF PROCESSING A SKIN PRINT IMAGE		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's request of November 12, 2008, please amend the application as follows:

OK TO ENTER 11/14/2008 /BL/

IN THE CLAIMS:**Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing a skin print image, and particularly a fingerprint image, which image exists as a gray-level image, comprising:

a processor for performing the steps of: convolving the gray-level image in the direction of two axes (x, y) by generalized gradient filters, wherein the generalized gradient filters each constitute the superimposition of a two-dimensional Gaussian bell curve and a suitably enlarged gradient filter, the size of each of which is adjusted to suit the average density of the furrows in the skin print image; normalizing the generalized gradients, convolving each of the normalized, generalized gradients with said generalized gradient filters, summing results of the convolution of the normalized, generalized gradients; and converting the results of the convoluted, normalized, generalized gradients to binary form.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, to enable a region of interest of a skin print image to be determined from the generalized gradients, items of length information are obtained that are compared with a preset length and, if the preset length is exceeded, a corresponding pixel is designated as belonging to the region of interest.

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4. (Previously Presented) An arrangement for processing a skin print image, and particularly a fingerprint image, which image exists as a gray-level image, comprising: a signal processing means in communication with a memory containing a program, which when accessed by the signal processing means causing the signal processing means to execute:

convolving the gray-level image in the direction of two axes (x, y) by generalized gradient filters to obtain generalized gradients, wherein the generalized gradient filters each constitute the superimposition of a two-dimensional Gaussian bell curve and a suitably enlarged gradient filter, the size of each of which is adjusted to suit the average density of the furrows in the skin print image;

normalizing the generalized gradients,

convolving each of the normalized, generalized gradients with said generalized gradient filters, and

converting the sum of the two results of the convolution of the normalized, generalized gradients to binary form;

obtaining items of length information from the generalized gradients,

comparing these item of length information with a preset length and,

if the preset length is exceeded, designating a corresponding pixel as belonging to a region of interest.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

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REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration are respectively requested prior to issuance. Applicants were contacted by an examiner on 11/12/08 requesting entry of the proposed amendment. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and a supplemental notice of allowance.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 13 November, 2008

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